



Vineyard Notes

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Greetings!

We hope you are pleased with the quality of the grapes you received from our vineyard this year. We felt that each variety achieved ripeness with a good balance of sugar, acid and pH. We had a crop of 86 tons, slightly less than the 88 tons harvested in 2002. Crop size was lower although more acreage was in production. The smaller harvest was likely due to a soil moisture deficit during the heat of the growing season, especially during the hottest July on record. This resulted in a lower-than-expected crop size in most varieties except for Merlot which met crop size expectations.

Canopy management underwent some changes from 2002. Leaf removal was done in the Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay and Muscat Blanc. This operation reduces disease and pest pressure and exposes more of the clusters to sun and may improve color and enhance flavor. We are evaluating the purchase of machinery that could automate this operation in 2004. Catch wire clips were used in the Merlot and we found these to be less labor intensive and more reliable than shoot tying which was done in 2002. Hedging was also necessary for all varieties.

Cover crop trials are continuing. Due to the success of the Merlot winter barley trial in 2002-2003, most of the acreage is now planted to winter barley, cereal rye or a barley/sweetclover mix. It is hoped that these cover crops will increase soil fertility and reduce weed pressure and soil erosion.

Stylect Oil will be discontinued in 2004 due to a lack of effectiveness at powdery mildew or leafhopper control. Provado effectively controlled a leafhopper outbreak in 2003 and will be used if necessary in 2004. Middle row

irrigation and PRD (partial rootzone drying) was successful in 2003 and will be continued in 2004. We believe these practices may result in larger and deeper rootzones which could make the vines be less prone to water stress.

We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you next year. We feel that our vineyard is your vineyard and your input on how we manage your grapes is always greatly appreciated.

